

*Office of the Vice President*Agriculture and University Extension  
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June 2006

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We are pleased to cooperate in bringing the 2006 edition of *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*. Agriculture and related agribusiness enterprises are the mainstays of North Dakota's economy now and into the future. These enterprises compete in global markets and must be nimble in their strategies. It is vital that farmers, ranchers, agribusiness, leaders, and policymakers have up-to-date accurate information from which to make decisions regarding their future operations. This publication is that definitive source of current statistics.

We are pleased that the North Dakota office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is collocated with North Dakota State University. This wonderful partnership allows us to draw at a moment's notice not only on this information, but on the expertise and insights of the NASS staff, as we provide the research and Extension programs that are essential to the future success of North Dakota's agricultural enterprises.

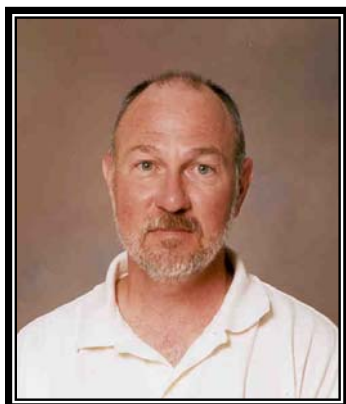
Sincerely,



D. C. Coston  
Vice President  
Agriculture and University Extension



The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station is pleased to cooperate in bringing to you the 2006 *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics* issue. This annual statistical summary is an invaluable source of information about North Dakota agriculture.



American agriculture remains an unqualified success story, particularly given the profound changes occurring in the industry. These changes are being driven by a tremendous expansion of scientific and technical knowledge. Investments in research and education over the past 100 years have led to unparalleled production of food and fiber, and our expanded efforts in biofuels and other value-added products in our crop and livestock enterprises will continue to enhance the state's economy. The faculty and staff at the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station are proud of the role they play in the nation's agriculture sector.

As we continue research-based advances and prioritize our research portfolio, it becomes more imperative that accurate crop and livestock production data are readily available. It is with publications like the *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics* that some of our information is disseminated in a useful and accurate fashion. On behalf of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, I am pleased to help bring this edition to you and hope that 2006 is a successful year for all sectors of the agricultural economy of the state!

Sincerely,

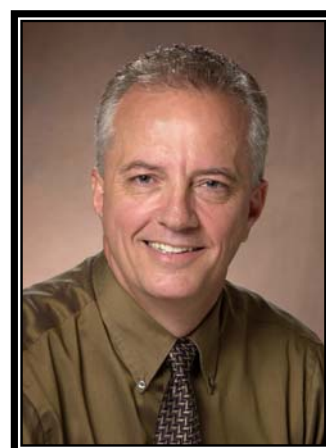
Kenneth J. Grafton

Dean, College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources  
Director, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

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North Dakota agriculture continues to provide valuable information regarding agriculture in our state. These crop, livestock and economic statistics help us learn from the past and plan for the future.

The purpose of the NDSU Extension Service is to "create learning partnerships that help adults and youth enhance their lives and communities". Extension education programs continue to provide producers opportunities to learn improved marketing strategies and management skills. Our programs also help farmers and ranchers improve productivity through resource management, by adopting crop and livestock best management practices, by controlling crop pests and through range land management. Agricultural statistics are used extensively when identifying and planning extension education programs, and we are proud to be involved in this partnership with the National Agricultural Statistics Service.



The NDSU Extension Service is pleased to, once again, be a partner in bringing you the 2006 issue of *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*. A special thanks to all those who provided data.

Sincerely,

Duane Hauck, Director  
NDSU Extension Service